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THE FIRST COUNTRY LIFE SCHOOL FOR MARYLAND MINISTERS COMES TO A SUCCESSFUL CLOSE AUGUST 3

College Park, Md., August 4.

Marking what is felt to be a distinct advance in the co-operative effort, the School and Conference for Maryland Ministers has received unusual attention in all parts of the State. In the union of the preacher, representing the spiritual, and the Agricultural College, representing the material sides of the welfare of mankind, there should result both an improved agriculture and a quickened spiritual life. Christ did not confine himself to ministry of words, but while pointing out that only the soul was eternal, relieved the souls earthly dwelling place from sickness, blindness, insanity and paralysis.

While the country minister has often felt the need of a more thorough acquaintance with the tools of agricultural progress, he has never before had such an excellent opportunity to attain it.

The school began its regular sessions Tuesday morning, July 27, and closed Tuesday evening, August 3. A score of ministers representing the widely varied sections of the State attended its sessions, supplied with note books and pencils they entered every classroom with an alertness that made the work a pleasure for the instructors, and defied the unusual heat of the first week's sessions. Every session was enlivened by questioning and debate. The value to all was enhanced by the exchange of experiences. As Miss Anna B. Taft, of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions of New York, put it, "I am getting more good out of these classes than I believe they can possibly get from me." The ministers remarked also on the conscientious manner in which every member of the faculty or the College and staff of the Experiment Station, had prepared special lectures for their sessions, since the work given them covered in one or two lectures, the facts which would ordinarily be presented in many lectures.

Each day's session was opened by a lecture on Rural Sociology by Miss Taft. She said in her discussion of the "Old Fashioned Country Church," that it was the FIRST farmers' organization, and for a long time, the only one. That it should regain its position as the center of the community, by serving the whole community in material and social ways as well as spiritually.

In her second lecture on the "Rural Awakening" she pointed out the vast strides taken since 1909. As compared with the growth of the city, the country has comparatively stood still since 1890. Hundreds of counties have, in fact, decreased in population during that time. She declared that lack of co-operation is the tuberculosis of the farmers life, but there are unmistakable signs that the coming husbandman will solve the problem.

In the discussion of "Household and Homestead," she scored stingy husbands for not fitting the kitchen with labor saving devices, saying in part, "About all some women get is their board and clothes, and a good steady job—and few clothes at that."

In discussing the Rural School, she told of the girl teacher, who on pay day was asked by the school director if she objected to taking some soiled currency as part of her months salary. She said, "No indeed, I am not a bit afraid, for no microbe could live on the salary you are paying me."

In her lecture on "Recreation for the Countryside," she emphasized the fact that work, plain hard work, does not remove the need for play—but that such work without play becomes drudgery, and drudgery drives boys and girls from the farm. Her other topics at the school were, "The Church and the Transient," and "The Church and the Community."

The series of lectures on Rural Economics by Prof. F. B. Bomberger, Dean of the Division of Economics and Sociology, was most thoroughly appreciated by the attending clergy. In the topic, Co-operation in Rural Life he pointed out that in every other way the farmer is the peer, if not the superior, of men in professional life, that he is a careful, common sense thinker but that in the matter of co-operation he has been outstripped by all other professions. He called attention to the fact that of the thousands of noted men mentioned in Who's Who there are but five farmers, whereas, if the farmer had co-operated and valued his position higher, it would contain the names of thousands who really deserve it.

In his other topics, The Economic Characteristics of the Agricultural Industry, the Development of Modern Agriculture, the Factors in Agricultural Development, the Distribution of Agricultural Income, and the Organization of Rural interests, he said many things which have gone to all parts of the State in the ever ready note books of his students,

He told them that as educators in Rural Economics and Sociology, they should have no peer.

In the distribution of the wealth produced by the farmer, he has been cheated because he has not trusted his fellow farmers enough to properly organize in defense of his rights. The Grange is doing much for the farmer but is not appreciated by hundreds of thousands who should gladly embrace the first opporrunity of becoming members, and yet stay without.

The work in Soils and Drainage, Rural Sanitation, Fertilizers, Feed and Lime Inspection, Lime, Orchard Fruits, Small Fruits, Insect Pests, Live Stock, Herd Testing and Dairy Profits, Hog Cholera and its control, Electricity on the Farm, Poultry, Farm Management, Plant Diseases, Legumes as Farm Builders, Farm Water Systems, Landscape Gardening, and the Farm Garden, presented an array of facts so tangibly, so practically and so forcibly, that the ministers were enthused with the prospect of their increased efficieney in country pastorates. The special lectures on Women's Rural Organizations, Mothers and Patrons Clubs, Athletics and amusements, Home and School, and the Bible as an Element in Social Progress presented largely the sociological aspect of things.

SECOND ANNUAL COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE FULL OF INTEREST

College Park, Aug. 7.

With over one hundred ministers and their wives and numerous visitors present, the second Country Life Conference was filled with interest during the three days of its sessions.

Miss Anna B. Taft continued the series of lectures she had begun at the school, speaking on the Law and Gospel of Co-operation, Rural Surveys, and the Church and Public Welfare. She called for an awakening of the social service impulse, declaring that it was the hope of the church today. She tersely gave as a two-fold function of the church, the teaching of the gospel and the living of the Kingdom, the first scarcely being possible to one who does not do the latter.

Dr. Moses Breeze of Wisconsin came with a wonderful record to live up to, having transformed over one hundred weak, dependent churches into self-supporting centers for God's work. The great value of his three lectures and the discussions which followed them was that he showed in bold, straightforward strokes how he held people to account in their duty to give as they prosper, to the God who made us all. He proved to the satisfaction of those present that the financial side of the church is also a spiritual side, that all who believe in Christ's social gospel should give of their means to carry it on.

Dr. S. U. Mitman of Pennsylvania, in his talk on the the Sunday School, emphasized the unusual opportunity for moulding the life of man presented by the Sunday School.

The Country Fair for the Countryman, by Geo. H. Stevenson, also spelled the word Opportunity with eleven letters representing the eleven agricultural fairs in the State. They are not now doing their share of the educational and demonstration work that must be done to bring the country communities to a proper pride in farming as a profession.

Prof. J. E. Metzger, in speaking of the Maryland Rural School was quite optimistic, pointing out the superiority of the present over past institutions. The ministers and members of the U. S. Department of Education, however, took occasion to turn the artillery with most telling effect upon the unashamed and harmful connection of the school and graft politics. Dr. McBrien, of the U. S. Department, without spleen toward any Governor or official, declared that the power to appoint county officials who in turn hire the county superintendent cannot but result in the county superintendency becoming a political plum, which men swallow, who sometimes are not school men, though well-intentioned, and other times give the greater share of their time to other enterprises.

The Church's Duty to County Institutions was the topic of Mrs. H. J. Finley of Montgomery county, than whom few know more or feel more deeply on the right of God's shipwrecked and discouraged people to humane treatment and the sympathy of the minister while in county home or jail.

Ministers' wives, their problems and opportunities were discussed in the best of humor. The assembled ministers and their wives seemed to agree with Mrs. W. E. Callender, the writer of the paper, in her contention that the parson's better half should not neglect her own children or give up her home life to keep open house for the community. It would seem that the minister's wife prefers to be considered just like any other member of the community of like talents and circumstances.

On Wednesday evening the sweetest-voiced minister of Maryland took the entire group with him on a journey to Childhood Town. The whole-souled optimism and Christian love of Folger McKinsey, the Bentztown Bard, was a delight for all who heard him.

Authur G. Turner of the Baltimore News, demonstrated the feasibility of using the newspaper as an aid to the church. Prof. T. B. Symons and Miss K. A. Pritchett spoke on the uses of the Extension Service. Prof. Bomberger on Grange Organization. G. H. Alford on State and County Agent Work. Miss Mary P. Farr on Circulating Libraries and Dr. S. J. Fort on Boards of Health and Sanitation.

The committee on summary drew up a working program for the rural minister. Previous to adjournment, a permanent organization was effected, Dr. Harry J. Patterson being elected president and B. H. Darrow secretary, it being the unanimous request that the school and conference be made a permanent annual affair.